



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,241	02/13/2002	Marko Karppanen	I154.41135X00	8874
20457	7590	11/10/2004	EXAMINER	
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP 1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET SUITE 1800 ARLINGTON, VA 22209-9889			MCCARTHY, CHRISTOPHER S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2113	

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/073,241	KARPPANEN, MARKO	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Christopher S. McCarthy	2113	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 9-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 9-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/13/02</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Porterfield U.S. Patent 6,349,347.

As per claim 9, Porterfield teaches a method for improving the reliability of a computer system including a bus, an interface circuit, and a plug-in unit, which is connected to the bus via the interface circuit (column 3, line 62 – column 4, line 27; column 1, lines 52-65) comprising: addressing the plug-in unit via the bus by addressing operations directed at the plug-in unit which are monitored by the interface circuit (column 3, lines 30-33); measuring a duration of addressing of the plug-in unit (column 3, lines 46-53); and when the duration exceeds a

predetermined period of time, then the addressing is terminated by sending into a bus a signal indication termination of addressing (column 4, lines 54-61).

As per claim 10, Porterfield teaches a method as defined in claim 9, wherein: the duration of addressing is monitored using a watchdog timer with a predetermined timing set therein (column 4, lines 22-24).

As per claim 11, Porterfield teaches a method as defined in claim 9, wherein: when addressing is terminated an error signal is set by the interface circuit into an active state in the bus (column 4, lines 54-60).

As per claim 12, Porterfield teaches a method as defined in claim 9, wherein: when addressing is terminated an error signal indicating an error condition in the plug-in unit is set by the interface circuit into active state in the status register of the plug-in unit (column 4, lines 54-60).

As per claim 13, Porterfield teaches an interface circuit for improving the reliability of a computer system including a bus; a plug-in unit which is connected to the bus via the interface circuit, the interface circuit comprising: a watchdog timer (column 4, lines 22-25); means for starting the watchdog timer upon the start of addressing; and means for sending into the bus a signal indicating termination of addressing (column 4, lines 54-61).

As per claim 14, Porterfield teaches an interface circuit as defined in claim 13, comprising: means for setting an error signal into active state in the bus column 4, lines 54-61).

As per claim 15, Porterfield teaches an interface circuit as defined in 13, comprising: for setting a signal indicating an error condition in the plug-in unit into an active state in the status register of the plug-in unit (column 4, lines 54-61).

As per claim 16, Porterfield teaches an interface circuit as defined in 14, comprising: for setting a signal indicating an error condition in the plug-in unit into an active state in the status register of the plug-in unit (column 4, lines 54-61).

As per claim 16, Porterfield teaches an interface circuit as defined in 13, where: the bus is a CompactPCI bus (column 3, lines 13-16; column 2, lines 44-56). Porterfield teaches the utilization of the OnNow technology, which uses the protocols set forth by the ACPI specification, which teaches, in section 6.3, the hot-pluggability of a PCI bus. Therefore, since Porterfield teaches the inclusiveness of the ACPI protocol, it inherently teaches the use of a hot-pluggable PCI bus, which implies a basic function of a CompactPCI bus.

### *Conclusion*

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: See attached PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher S. McCarthy whose telephone number is (571)272-3651. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Beausoliel can be reached on (571)272-3645. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2113

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

csm  
November 2, 2004



ROBERT BEAUSOLIEL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100